

REMARKS

For the Examiner's convenience, a marked up set of the claims of the issued patents was previously submitted so the Examiner could readily identify the difference between the present claims and those of the earlier patents. A number of errors in presenting those claims have now been noted and are corrected above. In particular, what was intended to be designated as claim 89 was designated in the prior amendment as 99; and the change in Al_2O_3 content in claim 111 was omitted. Another change inadvertently not previously noted was that the sintering temperature in claim 86 is that which was deleted when presenting modified claim 1 of US 5,932,500 (as claim 80) rather than claim 5 of that patent.

Also, the reference to a pH range relative to viscosity in claim 80 has been deleted in that the pH is relevant to solubility and not to viscosity (which can be determined by calculation). See the paragraphs bridging pages 6-7 and 13-14.

Turning to the rejections set forth in the current Office Action, the dependent claims which recite broader amounts of alumina than the independent claims on which they are dependent have been amended to eliminate this inconsistency. The designation of K_2O in claim 111 has been corrected. The rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 can therefore be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that the specification sets forth antecedent basis for each value in the ranges recited in the claims. Reference may be made to the following chart:

Item	Values Recited	Basis (page/line)
SiO ₂	32%, 34%, 35%, 42%, 48%	4/27, 5/2, 9/2
Al ₂ O ₃	above 16, 18%, 19%, 20%, 26%, 28%	4/28, 5/3-4, 7/31-32
CaO	10%, 14%, 18%, 25%, 28%, 30%	4/29 9/21-24
MgO	2%, 5%, 6%, 8%, 15%, 20%	4/30, 9/26-28
FeO	2%, 5%, below 8%, 8%	4/31, 9/31-34
Na ₂ O + K ₂ O	0%, below 5%, 6%, 7%, 10%, 12%	4/32, 5/22, 7/34-35, 8/4
TiO ₂	0.5%, 4%, 6%	4/33, 8/11
SiO ₂ + Al ₂ O ₃	56%, 60%, 68%, 75%	8/27-28, 9/17-19
Other Elements	0%, below 8%, 8%, 15%	4/34, 10/16
Viscosity @1400°C	10, 15, 40, 70 poise	5/12-14, 11/11-14
dissolution rate	@ pH 4.5-at least 20 nm/day @ pH 7.5- <15 mm/day	4/35-36 11/9
liquidus temp.	1240 °C., 1340 °C	11/20-22

The continuing data has been updated in the application, as requested.

The allowance of claims 65-79, 96-97 and 110, and the allowability of claims 102, 108 and 116 has been noted with appreciation.

While the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 or 103 is contestable, the Examiner has indicated in paragraph 11 of the Office Action that the amounts of titanium dioxide in the claims allowed (0.5-4 or 0.5-6) are not fairly taught or suggested by the prior art of record, and these amounts have been adopted above in light of the commercial situation. Accordingly these rejections have been rendered moot.

With regard to possible additional prior art, the Examiner is advised that opponents to related applications/patents overseas have raised an allegation of prior use in Russia. Since that is not prior art under Title 35, no further details will be set forth here but should the Examiner desire such details, it will be provided on request.

It is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance and the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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